

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain in the case.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,429 to Blessing, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,052 to Chutjian.

Applicant's device for manipulating ions, as recited in claim 1, includes a first electrode fixed to a holder of electrically conductive material and a second electrode fixed to a first end of a rigid support of electrically insulated material. A second end of the rigid support is fixed to the holder so that the first and second electrodes are parallel and spaced. This enables the two electrodes to be jointly supported by two electrically conducting holders, for example, and yet be insulated from each other.

The electrodes of Blessing are mounted in a holder of electrically insulating material and fixed in a parallel position by screws. There is no mention in the patent whether the screws are electrically insulating or electrically conducting. Since the holder of Blessing is electrically insulating in contrast to the electrically conducting holder of applicant's device, the electrical conductance or non conductance of the screws of Blessing is irrelevant.

It is clear that the device of Blessing does not have an electrically conductive holder for a first electrode nor a support of electrically insulated material for connecting the holder to a second electrode.

If the connecting strip 50 of Chutjian et al. is considered an electrically conductive holder for an electrode as the Examiner contends, the holder is not connected to any other electrode. Any suggestion by Chutjian of substituting an electrically conductive holder for the electrically insulated holder of Blessing et al. would electrically connect the electrodes and render Blessing et al. inoperative. There is no teaching or suggestion in Blessing et al. or

Chutjian taken alone or in combination of an electrically conductive holder connected to at least two electrodes. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1 and is believed to be patentable along with its parent claim.

Claim 3 is directed to a device for manipulating ions that includes first and second spaced holders of electrically conductive material fixed to first and second electrodes, respectively. The first holder is connected to the second electrode by a first rigid support of electrically insulated material. The second holder is connected to the first electrode by a second rigid support of electrically insulated material. Neither Blessing et al. nor Chutjian disclose or suggest a holder of electrically conductive material fixed to a first electrode and connected to a second electrode through a rigid support of electrically insulated material. Therefore, claim 3 is believed to be patentable over Blessing et al. and Chutjian for the same reasons that were given in support of the patentability of claim 1. In addition, neither Blessing et al. nor Chutjian discloses or suggest a pair of parallel electrodes supported between two holders of electrically conductive material wherein each holder is fixed to one electrode and connected to the other electrode by a rigid support of electrically insulated material and each holder is fixed to a different electrode. Therefore, claim 3 is believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 4-9 are dependent from claim 3 and are believed to be patentable along with their parent claim.

Applicant's method of producing a device for manipulating ions as recited in claim 10 includes forming a holder and a first electrode fixed to the holder and fixing end of a rigid

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support of electrically insulated material to the holder and the other end of the rigid support to a second electrode. Since neither Blessing et al. nor Chutjian disclose a holder of electrically conductive material fixed to one electrode and connected to a second electrode through a rigid support of electrically insulated material, there is no suggestion in either patent of making such a device. The formation of an integral holder and electrode as disclosed in Chutjian is not relevant to the distinguishing feature of applicant's method as recited in claim 10 and described above. Therefore, claim 10 is believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 11-19 are dependent from claim 10 and are believed to be patentable along with their parent claim.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above discussion, this application is believed to be in condition for a Notice of Allowance. Such further and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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